



Photographer: John Hicks
Websites: www.johnhicks.co.uk, www.avisuali.com
Location: Ibiza
Client: FHM Magazine/Collections
Shot details: Hasselblad H1 body and fixed 80mm lens at 1/500sec, f8, ISO 100

This image was part of a fourteen-page fashion shoot using models and circus artists to highlight the latest gypsy-inspired clothing labels.

I wanted to use real circus performers because they would give the story more authenticity and, anyway, I'm fascinated by fire. We shot in February in Ibiza because of the weather and the talent that you can easily get from the more outrageous club scene – casting for the job was as much fun as the actual shoot.

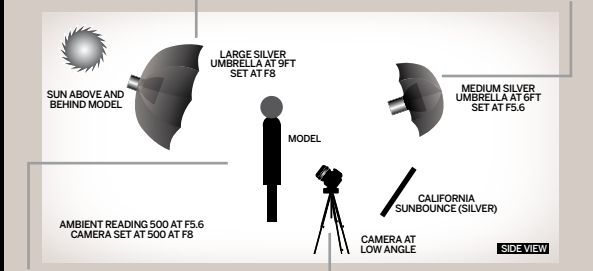
The fire guy was just awesome and, although working with fire on location can be quite tricky because of the blow back from a changing wind, he was such a professional on set he handled the wind perfectly and all I had to worry about was getting it on film.

I had thought to wait till dusk to shoot because it can be hard to capture fire against a blue sky, but by using flash on location what I love most about this shot is that it does exactly that – that's what makes it one of my favourite shots.

LIGHTING

Lighting-wise it was kept simple. I used ProFoto 7B flash with silver umbrellas, which I really like for their 'wraparound' light quality and versatility on location. The fill light was kick back from a silver California Sunbounce.

- 1 Key light was the backlight – a large silver umbrella placed high behind the head and roughly in line with the sun, set at 1 stop over the natural ambient
- 2 Front and fill light had to be kept to a minimum or else it would have cancelled out the dramatic effect of the fire and the highlights it threw onto the face and chest



- 3 By underexposing the background and using a high sync shutter speed I was able to render the fire perfectly against a bright blue sky
- 4 Everything was captured in camera and on film and then transferred to digital. There was no retouching or added fire effects in post

© John Hicks